LEVEL ONE

News Notes

from the COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF THE CHURCHES OF CHRIST IN THE U.S.A.
475 RIVERSIDE DRIVE NEW YORK 27, N. Y.

addressed to those who are concerned with Christianity and Higher Education

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CHE HOLDS FIRST COMBINED ANNUAL MEETING

"The idea of a combined Annual Meeting for all the Units and the Commission on Higher Education has proved itself." This was the general reaction to the assembly held June 13th to 19th, 1961, at Conference Point Camp, Lake Geneva. Sessions opened with a provocative presentation by Harold Viehman on the problems of Christian higher education in a world of revolution and power. This, with comments by Edmund Perry, stimulated intense discussion and helped to bring the many diverse elements involved in the life of the Commission together as they discussed the various questions raised. Merrimon Cuninggim continued the stimulation in a series of addresses on the Protestant Stake in Higher Education. "The Protestant efforts in the field of higher education - church colleges, campus religious movements, seminaries - are weak in quality. Weaker than Protestants have known or been willing to admit. ...Certain principles of the Reformation do possess clear implications for education, thus driving Protestants to stay in the college business. ...There ought to be such a thing as a Protestant witness in higher education. ...This witness may have little or nothing to say about matters of particular content of the curriculum or educational methods but has much to say about the prevailing tone or temper of prevailing higher education and about its basic orientation or world view."

Other interesting presentations were made by Jay Calhoun on "Power Structures in the University" and by Parker Rossman reporting on "Attitudes and Perspectives of Campus Pastors." Keith Irwin led the conference in meaningful daily worship.

Said one national leader, "It is good to see students, college presidents, national staff, campus pastors, and faculty all meeting face to face and discussing their common and distinct problems."

All sorts of interesting things came out in the reports to the Administrative Committee. Progress is being made in the emergency aid to African students - a suggested plan for the reorganization of the Board of the Christian Scholar - plans for the Third Convocation of Christian Colleges to be held next year - next steps in the consultation on a Protestant Philosophy of Education - a proposal for a lecture series on the Christian Faith and Higher Education at the Commission's Annual Meetings.

Actions voted by the Administrative Committee:

- Voted action on the setting up of a Committee of Study and Research for the Commission.
- Accepted a recommendation to establish a "Committee of Local Staff." This Committee to be set up by the Commission by inviting "denominational professional associations, or, in the absence of such associations the appropriate denominational agencies, NACUC, ACURA, YM and YW and other related organizations or movements (such as Christian Faith and Life Communities) to name not more than three representatives to an annual consultation during the Annual Meeting of the Commission on Higher Education and such other times as the need may arise.

This consultation to be concerned with and related to any problems appropriate to and impinging upon strategy and work on the local campus."

- Concurred in the recommendation that University Christian Mission be discontinued. Accompanying the recommendation was a statement of high commendation for the work that UCM has done.
- Set the date of the next Annual Meeting of the Commission for June 13th to 17th, 1962, Conference Point Camp, Lake Geneva. This date immediately precedes the date of the Convocation of Christian Colleges to be held at St. Olaf College, June 17th to 24th. WE URGE YOU TO PUT THE DATES DOWN NOW!

INTERESTING LOOKING PUBLICATIONS

- Religion and the Face of America, University Extension, University of California, Berkeley 4, California. An interesting report of a three day conference at Arilomor held in 1958 to "explore religion as a cultural institution in the United States today." Among the articles - Contemporary Religious Appeals and Who Responds by A. C. Rasmussen; The Evangelist Strategy by Philip Rieff; The Religious Revival in America, by Charles W. Lock.
- The Role of Christian Colleges in India Today - A Contribution to the Discussion, J. W. Airan, Wilson College, Bombay, India.
- Plumb Lines - A Guide to the Church College by Roy E. Olsen. A new booklet designed to help young people and their parents answer questions about choosing a college and preparing for it. Published by the Board of College Education, The American Lutheran Church, 422 South Fifth Street, Minneapolis 15, Minnesota.
- College Law: A Guide for Administrators, by T. E. Blackwell. A "working handbook for college and university administrators involved in legal problems." Available from the Publication Division of the American Council on Education, 1785 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W., Washington 6, D. C.
- Orientation, 1961. The annual special issue of Motive designed for college freshmen, available from Motive, P. O. Box 871, Nashville 2, Tennessee.
- Intercollegian also puts out a special freshman issue available from the National Council of the YMCA, 281 Broadway, New York City.
- The Religious Life Program in the Methodist Church-Related College. Edited by Richard M. Bender, published by the Division of Education Institutions. General Board of Education of the Methodist Church. Suggestions and guidance in the organization and administration of the religious life program in the Methodist related colleges and junior colleges.
- Perspectives on a College Church, edited by Marilee K. Staff, Association Press, 1961. This book is coming out in November and is a report on a two-year study of the Claremont College Church made possible by a grant from the Danforth Foundation. It should be an interesting study of what was and is being attempted at the college church at the Claremont Colleges.
- Faith and Order Trends. A new bimonthly publication which will be a center for information on ecumenical developments related to Faith and Order. It will include special articles, information on activities and meetings, book notices, and many other announcements. For copies, write to Faith and Order Studies, National Council of Churches, 475 Riverside Drive, New York 27, New York.
- Eleven tape recordings of lectures and sermons of the WSCF Strasbourg Conference (Summer, 1960) are on file in the Department of College and University Religious Life, Methodist Board, Nashville. (B. J. Stiles, P.O. Box 871, Nashville 2, Tennessee) Among them are addresses by Kathleen Bliss, Joseph L. Hromadka, Karl Barth, D. T. Niles, W. A. Visser 't Hooft.
- Education in the Nations Service. A series of Essays on American Education Today. Among the writers: Archibald MacLeish, Jacques Barzun, John Hersey, William Lee Miller, McGeorge Bundy (The Woodrow Wilson Foundation, 45 East 63rd Street, New York 21, New York).
- The Church and Higher Education. An official statement approved by the General Assembly of the United Presbyterian Church in relation to Christian faith and higher education. (Board of Christian Education UPUSA, Witherspoon Building, Philadelphia 7, Pennsylvania.)

President Miller Upton of Beloit College has made an interesting analysis of the selection of 160 Americans from 1,000 applicants for the training program for teaching in East Africa. Here are the figures:

Public			
State Universities		32	
State Colleges and State Teachers Colleges		29	
Municipal Colleges		5	
			66
Private			
Private Universities		24	
Non-Sectarian Liberal Arts Colleges		31	
Church-Related Liberal Arts Colleges		39	
Protestant	27		94
Roman Catholic	12		

Dr. Miller notes that the largest single number came from church-related liberal arts colleges. In the light of the fact that these colleges now enroll relatively fewer of the total number of American students this may be an important statistic. One cannot draw too many conclusions without investigation and study but it may say something about which colleges are our best hope of getting the kind of vision and dedication this nation needs in its educated leaders in today's world.

THE COLLEGE PRESIDENCY

Latest publication to come from the Office of Education of the U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare is "The College Presidency, 1900 to 1960," an annotated bibliography. For those who want to make a study of the American college presidency, or who wish to make an analysis in preparing a job description in calling a president, this should be very helpful. It deals with general books and other publication in the field, material helpful in selection and qualifications - personal factors, duties and responsibilities. It will not be widely read, but certainly should be available in all of our college libraries and its availability should be known to boards of trustees.

TO IMPROVE UNDERSTANDING ABROAD

The Commission on Education for International Affairs of the American Council on Education recently appointed a committee "to insure a better understanding of American higher education abroad." This committee analyzed some of the reasons for the lack of respect for the American education system as being caused by:

- foreign misunderstanding and ignorance of American education policies and procedures
- operation of American "degree mills"
- the use of an academic double standard for foreign students by some American institutions

To help eliminate these causes the committee recommended that an authoritative document on American higher education be written by someone of recognized standing in the educational world that would give accurate information on American education.

- that a selected list of existing publications on American higher education be developed
- that further steps be taken in the interest of eliminating "degree mills"
- request the US Office of Education to establish a definitive list of accredited institutions which might be used overseas. (The US Office of Education sees no way that it can comply with this request; thus, the Council may publish such a list itself.)
- that action be taken to discourage the use of the academic "double standard" for foreign students.

ENCOURAGING NEWS

Edgar F. Shannon, president, University of Virginia, under pressure from alumni to get rid of his football coach, Richard Voris, who has lost his last 27 games and whose contract has another year to run, advised them "that the contract stands." Shannon continued: "...It is important and proper that our players, as part of their education here, know that honor and good conduct are not only taught but practiced....The University of Virginia does not break its contracts."

INTERPRETING INTANGIBLES

Thanks to a baccalaureate service we have enjoyed a visit to Guilford College, walked around campus on a sunny May day and seen and heard of encouraging developments in program and buildings. One interesting effort that has brought forth a surprising response has been the endeavor to prepare a brochure that graphically expressed the aims and purpose of the college. Since these are of high academic quality and Christian concern this was not easy. The result is to give one a sense that here is a college that knows where it is going and what it wants to do. (If there are copies left they may be available from Dr. Clyde Milner, Guilford College, North Carolina.)

QUICKLY QUIETLY AND EFFICIENTLY

Lovers of Academic freedom will be delighted to hear of the report in the New Republic, May 15, 1961, that the Burns Detective Agency sent out a letter to college presidents in the country containing the following: "Almost every department," the letter reads, "has it's (sic) controversial faculty members. These departments invariably are: Religion, Philosophy, Psychology, English (Literature), Biology, History, Government, Journalism, Speech and Drama. A 'student' trained in his duties as a Burns Operative, can enroll in the usual manner, obtain his class schedule, attend class and send daily, confidential reports to the Agency. These reports are analyzed and all reports are then sent to the client. After the necessary body of fact and information is developed, corrective steps can be made quickly, quietly and efficiently." (Quote from the N. Y. Teacher News, 6/10/61)

POLICIES ON FEDERAL AID

One product of the Annual Meeting of CHE was the development of a study paper on "Suggestions to Protestant Colleges and Universities for a Review of Church-State Practices and Policies." Working on the paper was a study committee composed of college presidents, denominational executives for higher education, and members of the CHE Executive Committee. Gerald Knoff and Dean Kelley of the NCC staff assisted. The statement reviews the issues, suggests "a possible rationale," raises "questions for consideration by faculty, administrators, and trustees of church-related colleges and universities," and urges that responsible discussion and decision be made on these issues. (Copies available from CPCU, 1818 R. Street, N.W., Washington 6, D. C.)

SOME FALL DATES:

- Aug. 26, Methodist Student Movement 7th Quadrennial, Un. of Illinois
- Aug. 27, American Baptist Student Conference, Green Lake
- Sept. 3-10, NSCF Assembly, Lake Geneva
- Oct. 1-5, Committee on Religion and Public Education
- Oct. 4, Executive Committee, CPCU, Washington, D. C.
- Nov. 10-12, 17-19, Dec. 1-3, Week-end Conversations for Students interested in Missions (Write Commission on World Mission, NSCF, 475 Riverside Drive, New York 27, New York)
- Nov. 13, Executive Committee, CHE, New York
- Nov. 15,16, Joint Meeting Department of the Ministry and the Department of Pastoral Services, New York
- Nov. 17-19, Executive Committee, NSCF
- Dec. 4-7, Committee on National Staff for Campus Christian Life and United Campus Projects

Note to all our Friends

In the interests of efficiency and security the NCC has inaugurated a central mail opening system. Thus we recommend that anything you wish to write to staff members of a personal or confidential nature should either be addressed to our homes or clearly marked personal. Have a restful summer.

Hubert C. Noble

General Director